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A. L. A. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Statement by the Committee

The committee urgently recommends consideration by the Association of its proposed amendments to the present constitution as presented in its report of 1921. On account of lack of time, these recommendations were not considered at the Swampscott meeting. Some of the present By-Laws were framed with a view to the adoption of these amendments, and the committee believes they would operate more satisfactorily with a revised constitution.

The committee recommends one change in the present By-Laws; namely, the omission of the second sentence of paragraph three of section 11. This paragraph would then read: "Chapters may admit members who are not members of the A.L.A." The omitted sentence, "These members shall not be counted in determining the appointment of delegates to the A.L.A. Council" was drafted to fit a provision for proportional representation in the Council in the amendment to the constitution recommended by the former report of the committee. It can be restored to the By-Laws at any time when the amendment shall be adopted.

Two important changes in the By-Laws have been suggested to the committee. The Secretary of the A.L.A. reports that several members of the Association have expressed preference for a flat \$3.00 individual membership fee for annual dues. The number making the suggestion is so small—probably not more than one-half of one per cent of the total membership—that the committee does not feel justified in recommending this change. Upon review of the discussion of the matter of annual dues at Swampscott, one will recall that this fee of \$3.00 was carefully considered by the Association, and by a considerable majority voted down. In view of the Secretary's report to the committee that about one-third of the members are voluntarily paying the \$4.00 fee, and that the present scale of dues has probably increased the receipts for the Association, the committee recommends that no change at present be made in the dues for individual members.

At the last mid-winter meeting of the

Council there was adopted on the motion of Carl B. Roden, chairman of the Committee on Committees, the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Council transmit to the Executive Board the accompanying report of the Committee on Committees, together with the following recommendations:

1. That the observations and conclusions concerning the several committees, embodied in the report, be considered in detail with a view to determining the proper status of each as a standing or specific committee.

2. That a by-law be formulated and submitted to the Association for adoption, creating and enumerating the several committees to be known as standing committees of the A.L.A. and defining their powers, duties and jurisdiction.

3. That the committees heretofore appointed by the Council, or by the President upon request of the Council, which are listed among committees of the Association and are performing duties or exercising powers for and in behalf of the Association, be reconstituted, reorganized or reappointed by the Executive Board, either as standing or special committees, or that they be merged with other existing committees or discontinued, as the Executive Board may determine. And be it further

Resolved, That committees created by the Council, or by its presiding officer upon request of the Council, are limited, as to functions, to consideration of, or assistance in, the business of the Council.

The purpose of the resolutions was to make provision in the By-Laws for clearer definition of the A.L.A. committees, and to prevent duplication of the work of committees, and especially of committees of the Association and the Council.

In the discussion of this resolution Mr. Roden stated that he was not present at the Swampscott meeting, and that he had not studied carefully the new By-Laws. Section 18 of the By-Laws was drawn with great care after consultation with Miss Tyler, then President, to remedy confusion that Mr. Roden found existing. As a matter of fact, it was Miss Tyler who appointed the Committee on Committees of which Mr. Roden is chairman. Instead of naming standing committees and defining their duties, it was considered better to let the Executive Board and the Committee

on Committees do this. Conditions are likely to change so that a change in standing committees will be desirable. If committees are named and defined in the By-Laws, each change in a committee will necessitate a revision of the By-Laws. The committee feels that the desired reform has been better provided for in the present By-Laws, and recommends that it stand.

The second resolution; viz.:

Resolved. That committees created by the Council, or by its presiding officer upon the request of the Council, are limited, as to functions, to consideration of, or assistance in, the business of the Council, has not been so clearly covered by the By-Laws. The sense of the resolution that there should not be, for example, a committee of the Association and another of the Council at the same time to investigate and consider library revenues seems reasonable. As the reports of all Association committees are presented to the Council for consideration, and since the Council may request the Executive Board to appoint any new committee, there need not be committees of the Council to conduct investigation. According to the Constitution the Executive Board appoints all committees. For the sake of clearer definition, therefore, it seems wise to the committee to recommend the adoption of this resolution as an additional paragraph to Section 18 of the By-Laws.

One member of the Association has suggested that all chairmen of standing committees of the Association shall be ex-officio members of the Council, on the ground that since the Council is the policy making body of the Association, committee chairmen should have the benefit of close association with the Council and a voice in its executive sessions. Although the committee admits the advantages of the suggestion, it hesitates on account of increasing the size of the Council, to recommend this change. It prefers to let the suggestion come from the membership of the Association at large.

Respectfully submitted,
HENRY N. SANBORN, Chairman,
MALCOLM G. WYER,
M. S. DUDGEON.

NOMINATIONS

The ballot, which will be sent to all members within the next few days, will carry the following names:

President

Jennings, Judson T.
Utley, George B.

1st Vice-President

Godard, George S.
Rathbone, Josephine A.

2nd Vice-President

Rose, Grace
Moore, Annie C.
Wyer, Malcolm G.

Treasurer

Tweedell, Edward D.
Koch, Theodore W.

For Trustee of the Endowment Fund

Porter, Washington T., Cincinnati
Schick, Charles E., Chicago

Mr. George H. Locke, who was nominated for President, Mr. Adam Strohm, who was nominated for First Vice-President, Miss Julia E. Elliott, who was nominated for Treasurer, and Mr. Edward W. Sheldon, who was nominated to succeed himself as Trustee of the Endowment Fund, have for good reasons declined nomination for these offices.

The nominees for the Executive Board and for the Council remain the same as printed on pages 3 and 4 of the January *Bulletin*.